

emergency phone number is 1-800-462-9029. I say that in case we have any Californians who need to hear that number. The reason that number is important is, if you have damage, you call there and you are eligible for short-term emergency assistance, such as transportation and housing, and longer term registration if you need a loan up to \$200,000, if your home has been lost and its value is that high.

The loans are made to people who cannot qualify at banks, and the interest rate will be about 4 percent. If you can qualify at a bank, the interest rate will be about 8 percent. I want to thank the Clinton administration for acting so swiftly. James Lee Witt, the Director of FEMA, unfortunately, has become a familiar figure in our State. He is an extraordinary man. He happened to be there during this disaster and has remained there. We are getting ready for what is to come. I urge my colleagues to please help us as we would help you in a similar situation, indeed as we have helped you in a similar situation.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we are debating the unfunded mandates bill. I voted it out of the Budget Committee. I am very much in agreement with the thrust of the bill. I served in local government and we had some mandates I never could understand.

So I am very hopeful that the bill, in its final form, will be good for my State of California. And I want to make it clear, if I think it is good for the people of my State, I will be very proud to vote for the bill. But if I see that the bill takes some twists and turns and ignores, for example, the biggest unfunded mandate we face, which is services to illegal immigrants, then I am going to have a lot of trouble voting for the bill. Therefore, I look forward to the debate.

We know that this bill on the issue of unfunded mandates will make a big difference in the way we fund State and local government. But no matter how fast or slowly we move this bill—and there is a push to move this bill fast because it is in the Contract With America and therefore there is a push to move it fast—there is something that is happening right now that we have to address.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE CLINIC VIOLENCE

Mrs. BOXER. The unfunded mandates bill will have an impact way down the road, maybe a year or more out. But I want to talk about a problem that is happening now. We have reproductive health care clinics all across this great land and right now we have some very brave people working in those reproductive health care clinics.

Why do I say "brave?" I do not think any of us could know the feeling that some of these folks have when they

leave their house: Will there be a stalker standing outside their house as they go to work to do a legal, legitimate job that helps many people? Do they have to wear a bulletproof vest—many doctors do—and will that vest be enough to save their lives?

Mr. President, this is a very, very, serious issue. And it has nothing to do with how one views the issue of reproductive rights. I happen to be someone who believes in the right to choose, a constitutionally guaranteed right, and until it is outlawed or changed it will remain so.

I introduced a resolution. My two prime sponsors are here, Senator FEINGOLD and Senator MURRAY; and another very important sponsor, OLYMPIA SNOWE, Senator SNOWE, is from the other side of the aisle. We have been pushing to get a vote on this resolution because, while we debate unfunded mandates that will take effect years into the future, right now, this minute, people feel like sitting ducks in clinics in rural and urban communities across this country. That is wrong.

We passed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. That bill says that it is a crime to injure or to harm anyone because they happen to work or volunteer at a clinic. There are approximately 900 clinics in the United States providing reproductive health services. But the violence continues every day. We have seen the brutal shootings of innocent people in Massachusetts and the shooting at a health care clinic in Virginia. Organizations monitoring this violence have recorded over 130 incidents of violence or harassment last year.

I have a bill. We are trying to get that bill brought up as a freestanding bill. It is a sense-of-the-Senate resolution and it calls on the Attorney General to fully enforce the law and take any further necessary measures to protect persons seeking to provide or obtain, or assist in providing or obtaining, reproductive health services from violent attack. There should be no argument about this.

I hope that the majority will clear this bill. We have been working to get it cleared on a bipartisan basis for the last 3 days. One day, "Oh, yes, it is going to be cleared"; the next day, "Oh, it is going to be cleared."

Everyone on our side has no objection. We need to send a signal to the people who work in these clinics that we care. President Clinton sent a directive to the Attorney General. She is working on this problem. We need to add our voice. This is not a criticism of the Attorney General. It is a push to make sure that President Clinton's directive is carried out.

I hope, by the end of this day, we will have this bill before the U.S. Senate for a vote and we will add our voice.

I yield at this time to my colleague and friend, Senator FEINGOLD.

Mr. FEINGOLD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise very briefly to praise and thank the Senator from California for her leadership on this issue. I am very, very pleased to be a cosponsor of the resolution and the amendment which is very straightforward.

I appreciate the language. It expresses the sense of the Senate that the Attorney General should take strong action to protect reproductive health care clinics.

There is really nothing else to be said, other than that the Senate should pass the resolution authored by the Senator from California. This must be done immediately, and if this Federal Government does not express that view, it is a sign of a Government that no longer can really protect the people of this country.

I think that this demands swift action in this body. There are many issues that can be disputed; some obviously should be ones we ought to take a lot of time on. I think we have a couple of them right now. The unfunded mandates bill is very complicated; the balanced budget amendment, amending the Constitution. These require the deliberative skills of the U.S. Senate, but this does not.

I cannot believe there is any Member of this body on either side of the aisles who believes the Federal Government should do anything but be very aggressive in stopping this violence. Just this past August, during debate over the VA-HUD appropriations bill, Senator LAUTENBERG offered, and I cosponsored, a similar amendment in the wake of the shooting of a clinic doctor and his escort in Pensacola, FL. However, at that time as now, I believe that the resolve of the Senate in the matter of clinic violence is clear. Ninety-eight Members of the Senate voted to condemn the shootings in Pensacola last August, and indeed, to condemn the use of deadly force as a means of protest. That is why I ask all of my colleagues to show their strong and united support today and lift any objections to the unanimous consent that this item come up at this time.

There are two reasons that I would like to add. The first is that the type of violence that is involved in these incidents is not truly random violence. It is random, perhaps, as to where it occurs and at what time, but it is not just one troubled individual for whatever personal reason who decides they want to kill somebody. This is the type of violence that is driven by an organized effort to deprive people of their reproductive rights and to intimidate them from exercising those rights. That is very different. The tactics of some individuals who oppose abortion access have escalated. As Ellen Goodman, a syndicated columnist who lives in Boston said in her column, the literal "line of fire" is coming closer to home. She writes, "First doctors, then escorts, now receptionists. First Wichita, then Pensacola, now Brookline."

That is a direct threat to the rights of every person in this country and in particular every woman in this country. And it is a situation where the Federal Government, not just local governments, has to take the lead.

The other reason I wanted to add very briefly is that I have heard a great deal of very appropriate talk in this body in the last 2 years about the victims of crime. They are people that have been forgotten in this society. But when it comes to clinic violence, there is quite a range of victims.

First of all, of course, the tragic deaths and injuries that have occurred directly to the people who have been shot or injured, but also, I think, the health care professionals that are involved and the people involved in the clinics, the receptionists, the nurses and the doctors, some of whom, in my home State of Wisconsin, have taken to wearing bulletproof vests to go to their clinics and do their work. Three very poignant examples of threats to health care professionals were reported by the Milwaukee Journal and the Wisconsin State Journal. Bullets were fired into one clinic on four separate occasions. One Wisconsin doctor is continually stalked. She reported that her car is always covered with anti-choice and threatening propaganda when she parks it—even at the supermarket. The remarks are frighteningly direct and personal. On her last trip she received a note on her windshield upon her return asking "How was your trip to Washington?" Another Wisconsin doctor received a letter saying that the anonymous writer would "hunt you down like any other wild beast and kill you."

They did not sign up for that kind of detail when they went to medical school or trained to be nurses. They wanted to help people make a difficult decision and they wanted to be medical professionals who were caring and compassionate. This is a terrible thing to do to these people.

But, most of all, the victims are all the young women in this country who already, in situations like this, are confronted with a very, very difficult personal decision. They want counseling and, if they make a particular decision, they want good medical attention. I want to remind all in this body, Mr. President, that when Mr. Salvi walked into the first clinic on Beacon Street on Friday, December 30 and started shooting, he was standing in a facility that not only performs abortions but also conducts Pap smears and routine gynecological examinations. Each time an abortion clinic is threatened with violence not only are those who seek abortion services in peril, but those who use a wide range of reproductive health service are as well.

These people are the true victims, the ultimate victims, who are intimidated from exercising their rights as Americans to make those decisions for themselves.

And so, Mr. President, I rarely ask this body to move immediately. It is not a body that is set up for that purpose. But there are exceptions and I think Senator BOXER has identified such an exception. The Senate should pass this resolution without delay. Condemning clinic violence should not be a partisan issue.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. I yield as much time as is required to the Senator from Washington, Senator MURRAY.

Mrs. MURRAY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank the President. I thank my colleague from California for yielding and for bringing this extremely important issue out to the floor of the Senate this morning.

The Senator has been diligent in pursuing this and in asking our colleagues to bring this issue forward so that we can get a vote and move quickly forward to let the people of this Nation know that the highest elected officials in this country do not condone violence. We will do everything we can to protect all of our citizens in this country.

Before us we have the unfunded mandate issue. It is an extremely important and extremely complex issue that we deal with today. However, it does raise a number of questions. It will take Members some time to move through that issue. Certainly we have to ask what is the outcome of this issue and make sure that, as we pass unfunded mandates, we do it in a way that will not bring about consequences that we have not asked for.

The Senator from California is bringing forward an issue that the consequences are clear. The consequences are the safety of individuals in this country, one of the highest priorities that we have. The issue of unfunded mandates is critical. But the issue of violence is just as important, if not more important. The issue of violence is one that every child in this country, unfortunately, understands and talks about. The issue of violence is one that we have to deal with at all levels.

I think it is extremely important that this body go on record in this Nation, now, to say to our kids that we will not condone violence in any way, shape, or form. No matter how we feel about the issue of choice, whether we are pro-choice or pro-life, we have to let people know in this country that we will not accept violence as a means of showing how we feel about an issue. We have to protect our citizens.

I commend the Senator from California for bringing this issue before the Senate. I sincerely ask all of our colleagues to list their objections so that we can move quickly to send a strong message to this country that we will back the rights of every citizen and we will not condone violence in this country.

Mr. President, I thank my colleague from California. I yield back to her at this time.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may have up to 10 additional minutes as long as there is no one on the floor. If a Senator appears on the floor, I will end my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to thank my two colleagues who were right there, immediately, when I called them and said we need action on this bill.

I also want to say that the majority leader, Senator DOLE, in public comments on this matter, has been very clear that it is a function of this Federal Government to protect the clinics. Now, I ask him to move this bill to the floor. We do not want to wait for another incident.

As I said, passage of this bill by the U.S. Senate, a sense of the Senate resolution, is essential to make it very clear as to where we stand on this issue. By the way, not only do medical professionals work at these clinics—and I know my friend from Wisconsin volunteered at these clinics—as we know, we have had volunteer escorts hurt. We had one case of a retired military person who was shot dead—shot dead. The man fought for his country, and he was shot dead in his own country escorting a doctor into a clinic.

It is a tragedy and a travesty of justice if this continues. So we need to send a message to the people who are exercising their constitutional rights, innocent neighbors of ours. Nurses are our neighbors. Receptionists are our neighbors. Doctors are our neighbors. Escorts are our neighbors, hard-working men and women who, on the weekends when they have time or after work, volunteer their time.

We are not only sending a message to them when we pass this resolution that we stand for law and order in this society, but we also send a message to those who would even think of picking up a gun or a grenade or the chemicals that they spray underneath clinic doors that we are not going to stand by—that this Attorney General, by the way, is not standing by. She has at her disposal some 2,000 members of the U.S. Marshals Service and 10,000 FBI agents. She has contacted the U.S. attorneys. I know the U.S. attorney for northern California, in San Francisco, was contacted. I spoke with him at length. U.S. attorney Michael Yamaguchi is, in fact, formulating a plan using all resources at his disposal.

Let me tell the Senate an additional reason why this is so important. Not only do we need to send a message to the decent people who work or volunteer at these clinics and to the women across this land that we protect them, but we also need to send a message to those who would consider violence or the groups who may not think they are inciting violence. But, when they call

doctors murderers, they ought to rethink it. They ought to rethink their language. Anyone can oppose a law. Anyone can work for Senators who support their view to outlaw a woman's right to choose. I would absolutely applaud a person for taking their feelings and working to change the system. That is what America is about.

But we do not take a gun out, or a knife out, and slash each other up when we disagree. Not in this country, or at least we never did. And we are not talking about one incident; 130 incidents of violence nationwide in 1994 alone; 50 reports of death threats to doctors and other clinic workers; 40 incidents of vandalism; 16 incidents of stalking; 4 acts of arson; and 3 attempted bombings.

We better say something here in the U.S. Senate. We better say it clearly because the message has to get out. If the Attorney General feels that she needs more help, I hope she will let Members know. Senator FEINGOLD is on the Judiciary Committee and he stands ready to hear. But it is my belief, after talking to the U.S. attorney for northern California, that they are beginning to put together the type of operation they need to make these clinics safe.

We have to go on record—Republicans and Democrats alike—that we will not stand by and allow innocent people to be harmed. That is the least that we can do in this circumstance. I look forward to hearing, once more, from the majority leader, whom I have discussed this with and from the new chairman of the Judiciary Committee whom I have also discussed this with, and I want to compliment Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE for working with me in the most bipartisan fashion. As a matter of fact, we spoke very late last night. We spoke at about 11 last night, and she intends to do her part on her side of the aisle to get this bill cleared.

I hope we will do that today. Frankly, Mr. President, I think it will make us proud to pass this bipartisan bill. I yield the floor. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

A TRIBUTE TO UCONN BASKETBALL

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, in my home State of Connecticut we face many challenges this winter: An economy that is beginning to recover, hopes are rising, and still a lot of work to do. But there is one element of life in the State that really has brought us all closer together, and that is the University of Connecticut Huskies basketball teams.

Over the last few years, the success of the UConn men's and women's basketball teams have inspired a feverish following that has actually earned its own name, which is "Huskymania." Each season, these teams bring the State a little closer and make those cold Connecticut winters all the more bearable.

I know the occupant of the chair has some relatives from Connecticut, and he can testify at least to the coldness of the winters.

These days, we all feel with great pride that our Connecticut Huskies are top dogs. The latest basketball polls nationally show that both the men's and women's teams are ranked second in the country, which is the highest combined ranking of any school in the Nation. I think even the most passionate partisan of some other college team would recognize what a tremendous accomplishment this is for a school from a State the size of Connecticut.

I think it is really a remarkable tribute to the young men and women who have worked so hard in pursuit of excellence and a dream—the school's first national championship in basketball—and to the great coaches who lead them, Jim Calhoun and Geno Auriemma.

These Huskies, if I may continue this metaphor, clearly have a bite to match their bark. The 11-0 men's team is the only team among the Nation's 302 Division I schools that has yet to be beaten, and we are very proud of that.

It is also worth noting that the Huskies are achieving this extraordinary start this year even after losing their All-American big man, Donyell Marshall, to the NBA. If I can extend my pride regionally, it would be important to note that the UConn men this week are second to the University of Massachusetts, which marks the first time that two teams from New England have ever been ranked 1 and 2.

The UConn women's team, which is also 11-0, has been equally impressive. These Huskies have been ranked second for much of the season, actually beating their opponents by an average of more than 40 points per game. This is a very dominant team. They are led by All-American center Rebecca Lobo, who is an exceptional student athlete—remarkable athlete—but an extraordinary student as well.

So I want to take this opportunity on this particular Friday to salute both teams who, in my opinion, are a classic example of what can happen when you aim high and work hard. I want to congratulate them on their success. I know that they have a tough road ahead of them from now on, but what they have achieved up until now should not go uncomplimented and they should know how much we appreciate them.

This Monday, the UConn women will face the No. 1 Tennessee Volunteers, and on that same day, the UConn men

will get a big test when they play the 10th-ranked Georgetown team.

Regardless of what happens, to say the obvious, the State of Connecticut feels that these Huskies are winners. We wish them the best of luck as they try to not only fulfill their dreams but ours.

I thank the Chair, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask, as under the previous order, that the Senate stand in recess until 11 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:58 a.m., recessed until 11:01:39 a.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. KEMPTHORNE].

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, in his capacity as a Senator from the State of Idaho, seeks unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 11:30 a.m.

Without objection it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:01:48, recessed until 11:30 a.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. THOMAS].

CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG EXCHANGE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, since 1983, the United States Congress and the German Parliament, the Bundestag, have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about the workings of each other's political institutions and convey Members' views on issues of mutual concern.

This year marks the fifth exchange with a reunified Germany and a parliament consisting of members from all 16 German states. A delegation of staff members from the United States Congress will be chosen to visit Germany from May 7 to May 20. During the 2-week exchange, most of it will be spent at meetings conducted by Bundestag Members, Bundestag party staff members, and representatives of political, business, academic, and the media. Cultural activities and a weekend visit in a Bundestag Member's district round out the exchange.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States in July for a 3-week period. They will attend similar meetings here